

has some distinct advantages over the existing borate fusion or peroxide fusion decomposition methods. In this method there is no necessity for platinum ware or high-temperature burners, the dissolution of the fusion mass is troublefree, and corrosion to the nickel crucible used for fusion is insignificant. The method is practically free from chemical interferences and background noise because tin is selectively extracted under the experimental conditions. However, Ti, V, Mo, W, Nb, and Ta are likely to be extracted along with Sn under the experimental conditions. However, in silicate rock and cassiterite samples, the concentration of these elements is very low and does not cause any interferences. There is also appreciable gain in atomic absorption sensitivity because of atomic absorption measurements in the organic phase.

The proposed method has been applied to the determination of tin in a number of cassiterite-bearing samples and the results are shown in Table I. Precision and accuracy of this method have been studied by analysis of CANMET standard reference materials MP1a and MP2 which shows good agreement with the reported value with an RSD of 6.4%.

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TABLE I
Determination of Tin
in Cassiterite-Bearing Silicate Rocks

Sample	Sn (%) Present method ^a	Sn (%) XRF method
CANMET MP2	0.05	0.05 ^b
Pegmatite	2.04	2.01
Pegmatite	0.68	0.66
Cassiterite	5.14	5.18
Cassiterite	9.24	9.20
Cassiterite	17.26	17.35
CANMET MP1a	1.18	1.25 ^b

^aAverage of five determinations.

^bRecommended value.

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AUTHOR INDEX ATOMIC SPECTROSCOPY

Volume 6, 1985

	Pages		Pages
January-February (Vol. 6, No. 1)	1-48	July-August (Vol. 6, No. 4)	81-124
March-April (Vol. 6, No. 2)	49-64	September-October (Vol. 6, No. 5)	125-148
May-June (Vol. 6, No. 3)	65-80	November-December (Vol. 6, No. 6)	149-168

A

- ANDELA, S., MARTENS, W. M., AND DE BOER J. L. M., Horizontal Alignment of the ICP/6000 Spectrometer System 61
ARRAES, I. P., See Mayer C. S.

B

- BARBARO, M., See Marabini, A. M.
BENDICHO, C., See Castillo, J. R.
BERMAN, S. S., See Desaulniers, J. A. H.
BLUST, R., VAN DER LINDEN, A., AND DECLEIR, W., Microwave-Aided Dissolution of a Biological Matrix in AAS Sample Cups Prior to Graphite Furnace Analysis 163
BORNSTEIN, A. A., See Fitzgerald, E. A.
BRAMSTEDT, W. R., See Kehr, P. F.
BUTLER, D. L., See Noller, B. N.

C

- CARNRICK, G. R., See Slavin, W.
CASETTA, B., DI PASQUALE, G., AND SOFFIENTINI, A., Setting Up an ICP Coupled with HGA for Characterization of Sulfur in Polymeric Materials 62
CASTILLO, J. R., MIR, J. M., BENDICHO, C., AND MARTINEZ, C., Determination of Boron in Vegetal Matter by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy Using Direct Atomization of Methyl Borate as Volatile Phase 152
COLLINS, J. B., See Ediger, R. D.

D

- DAS, A. K., See Roy, N. K.
DAVIDOWSKI, L. J., See Fitzgerald, E. A.
DE BOER, J. L. M., See Andela, S.
DECLEIR, W., See Blust, R.
DESAULNIERS, J. A. H., STURGEON, R. E., AND BERMAN, S. S., Atomic Absorption Determination of Trace Metals in Marine Sediments and Biological Tissues Using a Stabilized Temperature Platform Furnace 125
DIETZ, M. L., Improved Recoveries of Lead in the Dry-Ashing of Sewage Sludge for Analysis by Atomic Absorption 59
DI PASQUALE, G., See Casetta, B.
DUNGS, K. W., HOPP, D., AND NEIDHART, B., Modifications and New Developments for HGA Graphics Software for Perkin-Elmer Model 3600 Data Station with Zeeman/5000 Spectrometer 161

E

- EDIGER, R. D., YATES, D. A., PRUSzkowska, E., COLLINS, J. B., AND VOLLMER, J. W., An Integrated Approach to ICP Spectroscopy 56
ERLER, W., See Grobenski, Z.

F

- FABEC, J. L. AND RUSCHAK, M. L., Determination of Ni, V, Fe, Na, Ti, Al, Sb, and Sn in Fluid Cracking Catalysts by ICP/AES-Flame AAS 81

atomic spectroscopy

Vol. 6, No. 6 November-December 1985

- FITZGERALD, E. A., BORNSTEIN, A. A., AND DAWKINSKI, L. J., Determination of Trace Elements in Negative Photoresist by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy and Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy 1
 FRITZ, D. A., See Kehr, P. F.

G

- GALLEGO, M., LUQUE DE CASTRO, M. D., AND VALCARCEL, M., Atomic Spectroscopic Techniques in Flow Injection Analysis: A Review 16
 GANGULI, C. K., See Roy, N. K.
 GIARETTA, A., See Casetta, B.
 GROBENSKI, Z., ERLER, W., AND VOELLKOPF, U., Determination of Mercury with Zeeman Graphite Furnace AAS 91
 GROGNARD, M. AND PIOLON, M., Acid Pretreatment-Fusion Method for Determination of Thallium in City Waste Incineration Fly Ash by Zeeman Atomic Absorption Spectrometry 142

H

- HAHN, R. AND IKRAMUDDIN, M., A New Method for the Determination of Gold in Natural Waters by Electrothermal Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry 77
 HARDISTY, C. A., See Morris, B. W.
 HARRINGTON, D. E., See Kehr, P. F.
 HÄYRYNEN, H., LAJUNEN, L. H. J., AND PERÄMÄKI, P., Determination of Trace Concentrations of Selenium and Tellurium in Aqueous Solution by Introduction of the Gaseous Hydrides into a Direct Current Plasma Source for Emission Spectrometry 88
 HOCQUELET, P., Direct Determination of Tin at Ultratrace Levels in Edible Oils and Fats by Atomic Absorption Spectrometry with Electrothermal Atomization 69
 HOPP, D., See Dungs, K. W.

I

- IKRAMUDDIN, M., See Hahn, R.

J

- JOHNSON, J. L., See May, T. W.
 JONES, J. S., See Kehr, P. F.

K

- KEHR, P. F., JONES, J. S., FRITZ, D. A., HARRINGTON, D. E., AND BRAMSTEDT, W. R., Determination of Ultratrace Calcium and Magnesium in Brine 128
 KEMP, G. J., See Morris, B. W.
 KIMBERLY, M. M., See Paschal, D. C.
 KING, A. D. AND WALLACE, G. F., Determination of Trace Elements in Copper Metal, Copper Oxides, and Bronze by ICP Emission Spectrometry 4
 KINNUNEN, A., See Lajunen, L. H. J.

L

- LAJUNEN, L. H. J., KINNUNEN, A., AND YRJÄNHEIKKI, E., Determination of Mercury in Blood and Fish Samples by Cold-Vapor Atomic Absorption and Direct Current Plasma Emission Spectrometry 49
 , See Häyrynen, H.
 LAWRENCE, D. M., An Atomic Spectroscopy Bibliography for July-December 1984 23
 , An Atomic Spectroscopy Bibliography for January-June 1985 94
 LINDAHL, P. C., Electrically Heated Quartz Cell and Holder for an Atomic Absorption Hydride Generation System 123
 LUQUE DE CASTRO, M. D., See Gallego, M.

M

- MARABINI, A. M., BARBARO, M., AND PASSARIELLO, B., Determination of Uranium in Rocks and Minerals by Plasma Emission Spectroscopy 74
 MARTENS, W. M., See Andela, S.
 MARTINEZ, C., See Castillo, J. R.

- MARTÍNEZ-JIMÉNEZ, P., GALLEGOS, M., AND VALCÁRCEL, M., Indirect Atomic Absorption Determination of Uranium by Flow Injection Analysis Using an Air-Acetylene Flame 65
 , AND , Indirect Atomic Absorption Determination of Cerium and Lanthanum by Flow Injection Analysis Using an Air-Acetylene Flame 137
 MAY, T. W. AND JOHNSON, J. L., Total Automation of a Commercial Hydride Generator 9
 MAY, T. W., See Morris, B. W.
 MAYER, C. S., TINOCO, C. M., AND ARRAES, I. P., Determination of Chromium in Geochemical Samples by Atomic Absorption Spectrometry 121
 McCANN, J. F., See Morris, B. W.
 MIR, J. M., See Castillo, J. R.
 MORRIS, B. W., HARDISTY, C. A., MCCANN, J. F., KEMP, G. J., AND MAY, T. W., Evidence of Chromium Toxicity in a Group of Stainless Steel Welders 149

N

- NATARAJAN, S., See Pillai, C. K.
 NEIDHART, B., See Dungs, K. W.
 NOLLER, B. N. AND BUTLER, D. L., An Autostandby Switch for the Perkin-Elmer Model 5000 Atomic Absorption Spectrometer 156

P

- PASCHAL, D. C. AND KIMBERLY, M. M., Determination of Urinary Lead by Electrothermal Atomic Absorption with the Stabilized Temperature Platform Furnace and Matrix Modification 134
 PASSARIELLO, B., See Marabini, A. M.
 PERÄMÄKI, P., See Häyrynen, H.
 PILLAI, C. K., NATARAJAN, S., AND VENKATESWARLU, CH., Determination of Niobium, Tantalum, and Titanium in Niobites and Tantalites by Flame Emission and Atomic Absorption Spectrometry 53
 PIOLON, M., See Grognard, M.
 PRUSZKOWSKA, E., See Ediger, R. D.

R

- RILEY, K. W., A Simple Method for Determining Mercury in Fly Ash Using the Cold-Vapor/Amalgam Technique 76
 ROJAS DE OLIVARES, D., On the Standardization of Ruthenium Solutions 47
 ROY, N. K., DAS, A. K., AND GANGULI, C. K., Determination of Tin in Rocks and Minerals by Chelate Extraction Atomic Absorption Spectrometry 166
 RUSCHAK, M. L., See Fabec, J. L.

S

- SLAVIN, W. AND CARNICK, G. R., A Survey of Applications of the Stabilized Temperature Platform Furnace and Zeeman Correction 157
 SOFFIENTINI, A., See Casetta, B.
 STURGEON, R. E., See Desaulniers, J. A. H.
 SWOVICK, M., Detection of Manganese in Gunshot Residue 79

T

- TINOCO, C. M., See Mayer, C. S.

V

- VALCÁRCEL, M., See Gallego, M.
 , See Martinez-Jiménez, P.
 VAN DER LINDE, A., See Blust, R.
 VENKATESWARLU, CH., See Pillai, C. K.
 VOELLKOPF, U., See Grobensi, Z.
 VOLLMER, J. W., See Ediger, R. D.

W

- WALLACE, G. F., See King, A. D.

Y

- YATES, D. A., See Ediger, R. D.
 YRJÄNHEIKKI, E., See Lajunen, L. H. J.

